# Retransmission Consent Rate Reform

(November 1, 2011)



**Redacted – For Public Inspection** 

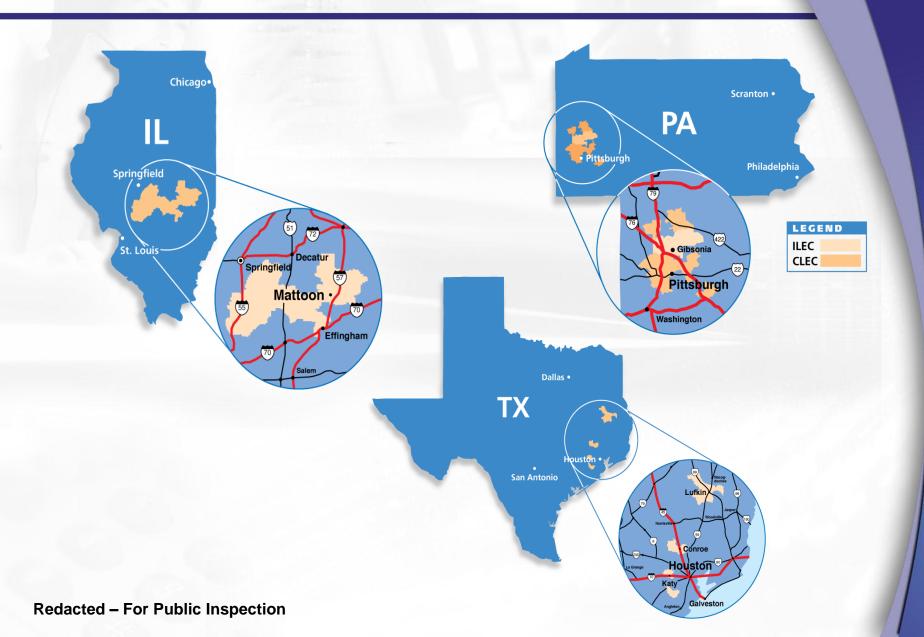
### Consolidated's IPTV Service



- Initial service launch:
  - Mattoon, Illinois in 2005
  - Houston, Texas in 2006
  - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2008
- Network infrastructure platforms include:
  - ADSL2+ (20Mb/s)
  - ADSL2+ bonded (34Mbs/s)
  - FTTH (70Mb/s)
  - Over 10,000 miles of fiber network
- 211,000 homes passed in combined markets
- Serve 5 separate DMAs
- 275+ total channels; 49 off-air channels

### **Consolidated's Market Areas**

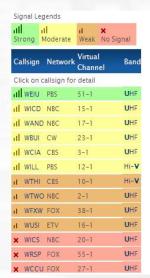




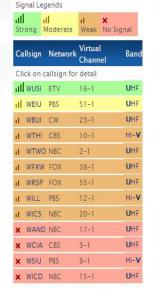
### **Illinois Broadcast Market**



- XXXXX homes passed
- XX% market penetration
- DMA's Served:
  - St. Louis
  - Chmpg./Decatur/Spfld.
- Major Competitors:
  - Dish Network
  - DIRECTV
  - Mediacom
  - NewWave





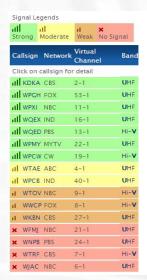




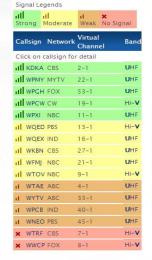
## Pennsylvania Broadcast Market



- XXXXX homes passed
- XX% market penetration
- DMA's Served:
  - Pittsburgh
- Major Competitors:
  - Dish Network
  - DIRECTV
  - Comcast
  - Armstrong





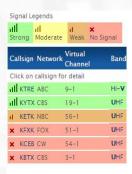


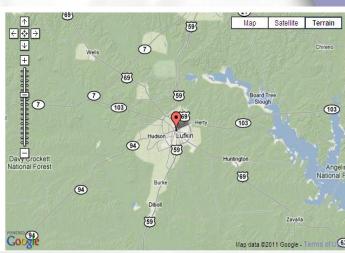


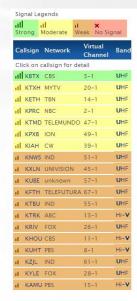
### **Texas Broadcast Market**



- XXXXX homes passed
- XX% market penetration
- DMA's Served:
  - Tyler/Nacogdoches
  - Houston
- Major Competitors:
  - Dish Network
  - DIRECTV
  - Comcast
  - Suddenlink









# Why Retransmission Consent Rules Must be Reformed



- Large portions of all of our markets can no longer receive reliable, high-quality over-the-air signals.
- Territorial exclusivity rules prevent competition in the marketplace.
- Broadcast content providers have no incentive to negotiate with small operators and use the current rules to hold systems and subscribers hostage, without recourse.
- Broadcast content is available directly to consumers on-demand on content provider websites, yet operators are still being over-charged for retransmission rights.
- Rate increases for smaller operators are much larger than those for major operators who have more negotiating power across broadcast markets.
  - Recent negotiations between DirecTV and Fox have revealed a proposed 40% increase. Similar "off-air" retransmission rate increases proposed to Consolidated exceed XX%





Confidential and Propriety Information

### **Retransmission Rate Effects**



#### **Subscriber Effects**

- Pass-through rate increases varying from \$XX to \$XX per subscriber annually in addition to non-broadcast increases
- Several channels producing emerging or ethnic content will not be renewed to reduce overall costs
- "Lifeline" service tiers will become unaffordable for many

#### **Consolidated Effects**

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## **Suggested Solutions**



- Eliminate network non-duplication and syndicated exclusivity rules and affirmatively ban anticompetitive agreements invoking territorial exclusivity protections
- Prohibit behavior that would deny customers access to significantly viewed distant signals
- Revise retransmission consent rules by giving operators flexibility to:
  - 1. Itemize per channel rates on bills
  - 2. Tier broadcast channels (no forced basic carriage)
- Exclude "lifeline" service tier subscribers from OTA reporting
- Create benchmark pricing schedule
- Require public disclosure of retransmission charges and MFN clauses in each broadcast contract